

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192585
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DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/JTSMITH/AD
APPROVED BY S/AR - AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON
D/LOS:FSMHODSOLL
NEA/INS:AATHIBAULT

-----039382 151418Z /50

R 151410Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192585

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, CE

SUBJECT: LOS: IMPLICATIONS OF GOVERNMENT CHANGE FOR
HAMILTON SHIRLEY AMERASINGHE AND CHRISTOPHER PINTO

1. IT WAS A PLEASURE TO TALK WITH YOU ON JULY 28. I REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN COLOMBO, AND DO NOT WISH TO IMPORTUNE YOU AS YOU ASSUME YOUR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES. I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO EXPAND A BIT ON OUR CONVERSATION AND SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY CONCERNS ABOUT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AS THEY RELATE TO SRI LANKA.

2. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE NOW CONDUCTING A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURES OF THE CONFERENCE. IN VIEW OF THE PIVOTAL ROLES PLAYED BY AMERASINGHE AND PINTO
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WITH REGARD TO BOTH SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE AT THE CONFERENCE, OUR REVIEW WOULD BE GREATLY AIDED BY ANY INFORMATION YOU CAN DEVELOP CONCERNING THE EFFECT OF THE CHANGE OF SRI LANKA'S GOVERNMENT ON THE ROLES OF THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER AMERASINGHE IS LIKELY TO REMAIN AS SRI LANKA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE UNITED NATIONS. I RECALL YOU SAID YOU

THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT HE WOULD, AND WE WOULD TEND TO AGREE.
PINTO'S FUTURE AS PRINCIPAL NEGOTIATOR FOR SRI LANKA IS ALSO
A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO US. AS YOU ARE AWARE,

WE BELIEVE THAT PINTO PLAYED AN UNHELPFUL ROLE IN WORKING
WITH ENGO TO CHANGE THE DRAFT TEXT ON SEABEDS WHICH HAD BEEN
DEVELOPED THROUGH THE INFORMAL WORK OF THE EVENSEN GROUP.
IF PINTO WERE TO CONTINUE AS DE FACTO LEADER OF THE SRI
LANKA LOS DELEGATION, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THE NEW
GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE DISPOSED TO KEEP A TIGHTER REIN ON HIM
THAN DID ITS PREDECESSOR.

3. FINALLY, IT WOULD BE INSTRUCTIVE TO GET A LINE ON THE
OVERALL ATTITUDE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT TO THE LAW OF THE SEA
CONFERENCE.

4. I APPRECIATE YOUR INTEREST IN THESE IMPORTANT NEGOTIA-
TIONS AND WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR ADVICE. WITH BEST
WISHES FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL MISSION.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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